dJ large inventories and action taken to bring down the inventories with results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA); (a) to (d) Ths Oil Companies have laid down certain internal norms based on operating experience, actual average procurement lead time, consumption pattern and safeguards for uninterrupted operations etc

The Oil Companies maintain inventories due to certain specific circumstances such as: —

(i) Multidisciplinary activities and the requirement of variety of equipment.

(ii) Rapid change in technology.

(iii) Long lead time for imported items.

(iv) Operational requirement. The inventory levels are regularly reviewed and monitored at the unit, regional and Headquartrs levels and corrective measures taken wherever necessary.

**Contract between ONCC and private sector for Oil Exploration**

254. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government and the Oil and Natural Gas Commission have signed production sharing contract with a number of private sector firms;

(b) if so, the detail of the agreement held with the private firms, firmwise;

(c) the locations where oil exploration works would be undertaken; and

(d) to what extent the target ol oil exploration is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Govern-aaent have approved the finalisation of five production sharing contracts in the Fourth Round of bidding !.: exploration for oil and gas.

(b) and (c) The companies which have been approved fo$_r$ award of con tracts are Albion International Resources, USA, Pan Energy Resources, USA$_)$ Vaalco Energy, USA, Coplex Resources, Australia, Pan, Pacific Petrolaeum^ Australia, Niko Resour ces, Canada, Shell Netherlands, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company ( India, Mafatlai Industries, India, Tata' Petrodyne, India and Transasia Consultants, India. These companies would be carrying out exploration work in blocks located in the Rajasthan, Pranhifa-Godavari and Gujarat-Kutch onshore basins and the Krish-no-Godavarj and Cauvery offshore basins.

(d) Production of oil or gas from these blocks would depend on the establisment of hydrocarbon reserves.

**Committee on Gas Shrinkage**

255. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to define norms for gas shrinkage;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Gas Authority of India Limited which drill for crude production as well as process to varying degrees for different and users causing the volume of gas to strink;

(d) if so the steps Government propose to take to check shrinkage by both oil companies; and

(e) by wnen the Committee set up or the purpose is likeiy to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINiSiRY OF PETROLEUM AND iNAi'UKAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SriAfiA): (a) and (b) A Committee consisting of two former Advisors of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural, Gas and iwo officials from Gas Authority of India Ltd. and Engineers India Ltd. was constituted to suggest, among other things, the general principles for project ii *i* shrnkage on account of extraction of LPG and C2|C3 from natural gas and to examine the pojections made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. Oil India Ltd. and Gas Authority of India Ltd. in thi3 regard.

(c) and (d) Shrinkage occurs in rmal course due to the extraction *oi.* LPG end C2|C3 from na.ural gas.

(e) The Committee has submitted its Report.

**Proposals by Cen.ral region of ONGC for discovery of oil**

256. SHRI MD. SALIM; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has discovered oil in two wells viz. Ichapur-1 (oligocene sands) and 'Golf Green-1' (Eocene Limestone) in West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 9 new locations proposed by the Central Region of ONGC to follow up the discoveries of Golf Green and Tchapur have been turned down by the management of ONGC; and

(c) if BO, what are the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARA): (a) The oil ' shows in these places are insignificant and non-commercial in nature.

(b) and (c) Of the 9 locations pro< posed, one location was for Golt Green area and 4 were for Shanti-> pur-Badculla area which is closer to Ichapur. Of these five, one location (Shantipur-1) $i_s$ already upgraded and scheduled for drilling and another 'A' Category location is already available in Badculla area. Golf Green area is being covered by 3-D seismic surveys. Future programme will be decided only after getting the results of the surveys. The remaining 4 locations were for other areas which were not agreed to because of the discouraging exploratory results *in* those areas or negative techno-economie or or want of additional information.

Oil Exploration by ONGC at Chand -kuri and Ichapur in West Bengal.

257. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHE.R JEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA-KALA PANDEY:

Wrl the Minister ?f PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it $i_s$ a fact that ONGC has discovered an oil bearing core from the Palcooene reservoir (with extractable oil) of Chandkuri 1 In Contai area of West Bengal;

(b) whether it is also fact that the ONGC management has intentionally spiked the poposal of the erstwhile* Chairman P. K. Chandra to drill a subsequent well Chandkuri 2 wner« comercial oil pool is expected;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC management is offering the oil bearing area of Tchapur and Chandkuri to foreign oompaniea for oil exploration; and

(d) if BO, the details thereof and reason therefor?